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ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1895.

The meeting, which was held in the room of the Society was called to order at 10.15 A.M., by the Rev. Eugene Leibert, on whose motion Abraham S. Schropp, one of the vice-presidents, was chosen to preside. Twenty-five members were in attendance.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1895, was presented. The following is an abstract :

RECEIPTS.	
Annual Dues	\$129 50
Fees for Life-memberships	20 00
Interest	82 00
Collection at "Vesper"	20 45
Museum Box	6 40
"Transactions" sold.	3 90
Cash on hand August 31, 1894	604 07
	<hr/>
	\$866 32
EXPENDITURES.	
Treasurer's compensation.	\$30 00
Librarian's compensation.	15 00
"Vesper" supplies.	18 73
"Transactions," 1894.	227 20
Stationery, postage and expressage	28 11
Taxes.	3 50
Commission to collector of annual dues	3 39
Cash on hand August 31, 1895	540 39
	<hr/>
	\$866 32

RESOURCES.

Cash	\$540 39
Sundry loans and stock	1557 75
Volume III (copies unsold)	60 43
Annual dues unpaid	90 75

\$2249 32

LIABILITIES.

Publication Fund	\$1254 80
Summer House Fund	445 72
Zeisberger Memorial Fund	162 70
Graveyard Fund.	38 62
Publication Committee	77 98
Binding Fund.	33 85
Annual dues prepaid.	4 00
Excess of Resources	231 65

\$2249 32

After the Secretary's report had been read and accepted, it was ordered that the minute, relating to the death of James Henry, the late President of the Society, which was adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting in July last, be embodied in the minutes of this meeting. It is as follows ;

"For the first time in the history of the Moravian Historical Society we, the officers and members thereof, are called upon to mourn the death of a President. In the departure of James Henry, on June 14th, 1895, we lament the loss of one who, for thirty-six years, worthily served as the head of our society. We acknowledge with gratitude his enthusiastic and never-flagging interest in the objects which it pursues, and recall with pleasure all his labors in its behalf. We rejoice especially in the personal worth of our departed brother. In him the society possessed as its President, in the noblest sense of the word, "a gentleman of the old school," courteous, cultured, scholarly and God-fearing. In the name of the society, the Executive Board tenders to the bereaved family its sincere sympathy, and rejoices with them in the memory of this noble life, so nobly lived,

and so nobly ended. With them we return thanks to Almighty God for His providential leading of his long life of nearly eighty-six years, and commend them to His further providential care.

“We order that a copy of this minute be sent to the family of our deceased President, be entered upon the minutes of the Executive Board, and be read at the next annual meeting; and we recommend to the Publication Committee that a memorial note of Brother Henry be inserted in the next publication of the society.”

On the recommendation of the special committee appointed at the last annual meeting, Articles I and III of the By-laws were amended so as to read as follows:

ARTICLE I.—Any person belonging to the Moravian Church may become an Active Member upon application to any officer of the Society. Such application shall be presented to the Executive Board at its next regular or special meeting. The acceptance of such applicant by the Executive Board shall at once constitute the said applicant an Active Member of the Society without any further action of the Society as a whole.

ARTICLE III.—Any person not belonging to the Moravian Church may become an Associate Member upon application to any officer of the Society. Such application shall be presented to the Executive Board at its next regular or special meeting. The acceptance of such applicant by the Executive Board shall at once constitute the said applicant an Associate Member without any further action by the Society as a whole.

The election of officers was next held, resulting as follows:

President, Rt. Rev. J. Mortimer Levering.

Vice-Presidents, Rt. Rev. H. J. Van Vleck, Rev. Eugene Leibert, Rev. E. T. Kluge, Rev. Wm. H. Rice, Rev. Arthur D. Thaeler, Wm. H. Jordan, Abraham R.

Beck, Abraham S. Schropp, Rev. M. W. Leibert and C. Otto Brunner.

Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Kunkel.

Librarian, C. E. Michael.

Managers, Joseph A. Rice, Granville Henry, Aug. H. Leibert, Wm. V. Knauss, John F. Bardill, John W. Jordan.

Library Committee, Rev. John F. Warman, Rev. Eugene Leibert, John F. Bardill, John W. Jordan, Abraham S. Schropp, Rev. Paul de Schweinitz.

Publication Committee, Rev. Eugene Leibert, Robert Rau, Rev. J. Taylor Hamilton.

Graveyard Committee, C. E. Michael. G. A. Schneebeli.

Adjourned at 11.40 A.M. to meet at 2 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session was held in connection with the usual "Vesper." One hundred and twenty members and guests were present.

After the collation had been partaken of, Bishop Levering the newly elected President addressed the assemblage as follows :

FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY !

While it affords me pleasure to greet and welcome you in the name of the official management, it is with some degree of sadness that I perform this duty which devolves upon me for the first time.

I know that others feel with me that something intimately associated with our former gatherings is wanting to-day. A presence which seemed to belong at the head of this table has silently passed out among the shadows to be seen here no more. We all naturally thought of the Moravian Historical Society when we heard that James Henry had been gathered to his fathers. He would wish no black line of mourning to mark this year of the Society's history, for he held too firmly the old-time teaching of the Church which on principle discarded such conven-

tionalities. In the spirit in which he pondered the history of the fathers and wrote the story of their lives, their labors and their departure, he would wish us rather, without ostentation, to speak of him as "gone home." Yet, before our imagination, the mark runs across the page of a finished period.

The first President of this Society and, excepting a brief interval in 1869-71, continuously its only President, he left a patriarch's chair vacant here as well as in the family circle when, on June 14, 1895, he passed away after a pilgrimage on earth of eight months and a day more than four score and five years.

We are reminded of a truth of which he was persuaded. We learn the best things for ourselves and for the good of the connections and surroundings we help to influence from that most real and valuable history, personal history, the history of lives. Sound philosophy lies in the old Moravian custom of accumulating biography, and especially autobiography, as a conspicuous department of history and studying past events through this medium. This Society may well follow him in seeking realities in the field of its labors by this means.¹ Remembering how fondly he cherished its objects, the impression left by his finished life and work admonishes us to emulate him in keeping a higher aim in view than mere antiquarian diversion.

To the sound and truly cultured mind every valuable thing is a serious thing even if it be something that is amusing. In the lives and deeds of the fathers who made the early history of this region which he loved to study there is much that would offer capital to the mere humorist, but it is throughout so blended with evidences of holy purpose, pursuit of superior ideals, acts of sublime heroism, that dignity is added to even the most amusing oddities and an element of deepest pathos lies even in things that now excite merriment. Thus they become serious things because valuable in the eyes of the true student and therefore deserve a better fate than to be trampled under foot by the Philistine or to be made sport of by the irreverent, the shallow and the frivolous. In this spirit James Henry thought and wrote about the things of olden time.

Writing history for the information of others is barely less a

¹ See under *Moravian Manuscript Literature* by James Henry, remarks on "Lebensläufe," Transactions, Vol. IV, pp. 20-23.

serious employment than making history in life and deed. I would then set the thought before myself and you to-day that in exploring the range of history within the province of our Society, in telling it to others, in preserving its monuments, we are dealing with lives and deeds which merit reverent treatment and are engaged in a task of dignity even when depicting the lighter features; that we should therefore be in earnest about it so that our organization may be an educational one whose work is valuable, useful and fruitful.

But we have in mind this hour not only the late venerable President of our Society among the departed.

Rarely, if ever, has a year's record chronicled the decease of so many interested, active members. We are reminded of one to whose memory our late President penned a tribute, as warm as it was just, four months before he, himself laid down his pen forever. When Helen Bell died, February 11, 1895, a working girl is said to have pronounced the finest eulogy any one could covet—"nothing that is said about her can be too good." This is not the place to speak particularly of those relations and activities in which she elicited such a verdict.

Her delight in history, in Moravian history, in the associations and monuments of the classic past of this historic region, in this ancient house and its hallowed memories, in the contents of this room, in the work of our Society was for others a stimulus to the best there is in our mission. We have lost a real and valuable friend, and the Church has reason to cherish sweet thoughts of her in connection with the sacred, tender trust attaching to these premises through her generous thoughtfulness.

But prior to her departure another name had disappeared from our roll which recalls many years of faithful, valuable work in connection with putting the literary productions of our Society before the public. His name is not connected with any of its historical papers, but some of us who have labored with him and like him on the Publication Committee, know that the services which Brother Edwin Klosè rendered were real and large. We recall how at the business meeting last year his protracted ill-health and incapacity for this or any other work and our desire to not break the bruised reed of his hope to yet again be of use led us to increase that Committee instead of simply substituting

another member for him. But a very short time after that meeting, September 15, 1894, he was released from all toil and trouble. Thirty years he was a member of this Society and seventeen years a member of the Publication Committee. He has rendered service which merits recognition.

The following week, on September 21, 1894, another member of our Society, Brother Samuel Frederick Van Vleck departed this life at Lititz, Pa. Though he was not officially connected with the organization and had not participated conspicuously in its work, his name and family connections call up associations with Nazareth from the earliest times of the settlement and bring to our minds the lively and sympathetic interest ever taken in the traditions of the olden time, and in the souvenirs collected here, by his father who is one of our vice-presidents.

And now we come to the mention of another whose participation in the work of our Society was quite material. Brother Herman A. Brickenstein, who after long and grievous suffering departed this life on July 1, 1895, was one of its original members, was its first secretary, was the author of the first historical paper found in the first volume of its published collections and was a member of its Publication Committee from 1867 to 1888, twenty-one years. I will not attempt to speak of things outside of these relations as a representative of the many who have some acquaintance with what he was and what he did, who affectionately cherish his memory and appreciate the value of his strong and cultured mind, his large and varied stores of knowledge and his engaging personality in all the spheres in which he labored as a pastor, an editor, an educator and a historian.

We greatly miss such men when they leave us and we look about us with solicitude for others capable and worthy to take their places.

The day after the remains of Brother Brickenstein were laid to rest yet another member of our Society passed away.

He was not officially connected with it and had not been a member so many years, but had been actively interested in its welfare and had often rendered efficient aid in making its annual meetings pleasant and profitable.

I refer to Brother James Leibert who departed this life July 4, 1895. Though called away in early manhood when, in natural

human expectation, the most of his life and work on earth yet lay before him, he had earned a reputation as an educator in the historic institution which has made Nazareth so widely known.

Many and varied recollections are awakened by the mention of these successive names cherished by us in kind remembrance.² With the decease of these members their part in the activities with which they were associated has all passed into history. Thus, in every finished life work, our immediate past is continually adding to the volume come down to us from the more remote past and in like manner the scenes in which our lives and deeds figure are creating material for those who will follow us to gather for others who will follow them.

The thought lies near that we should be stimulated to do well our part and that we should unite in the desire to make our Society increasingly valuable and useful.

In view of the unusual circumstances of this occasion I ask permission to let these reflections take the place of other thoughts which I might suitably express on taking the President's chair to which you have done me the honor to elect me, and in conclusion to venture the hope that growing prosperity may characterize the coming years of the Moravian Historical Society through our united, loyal efforts.

The following papers were read:

"Sketch of the Moravian Church in Camden Valley, New York," by Prof. J. Taylor Hamilton.

"Journey of Brother Schnall from Nazareth, Pa., to Fairfield, Canada, in the year 1801," by Prof. Henry A. Jacobson.

"Some Notes on the first Missionary Society in America,—the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, founded August 19th, and fully organized November 28th, 1745," by Rt. Rev. J. M. Levering.

A letter from Dr. B. B. Brashear, of Cleveland, Ohio, relating to the erection of a monument to mark the site

² Brief biographies of these departed members are appended to the record of the Transactions of this meeting, a practice being thus introduced which it is hoped may be continued.

of Pilgerruh was communicated by the President, who was commissioned to send a suitable reply.

Dr. F. C. Johnson, Editor of the *Wilkes-Barre Record*, and member of the Wyoming Valley Historical Society, who was present as the guest of Rev. E. S. Wolle, was introduced, and made a brief address.

The following contributions to the collection of the Society were reported by the Librarian ;

From Wm. H. Jordan, Portraits in oil of Bishop H. J. Van Vleck and Rev. Francis Wolle.

From Emil J. Bishop, Photograph of Samuel Frederic Van Vleck.

From the Moravian Publication Concern, copies of the Alaska number of *The Moravian*, and photographs of the missionaries in Alaska.

At the close of the year the Society numbered two hundred and ninety-seven members (seventy life, and two hundred twenty-seven active and associate). Ten new members were reported at this meeting.